

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /064 W

----- 042550

R 070835Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9216

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS NAMED METRO-MANILA MANAGER

REF: MANILA 15332

1. ON NOV 6 PRESIDENT MARCOS SIGNED DECREE INTEGRATING FOUR CITIES AND 13 MUNICIPALITIES IN GREATER MANILA AREA UNDER ONE GOVERNMENT AND SWORE IN HIS WIFE AS FIRST GENERAL MANAGER OR GOVERNOR OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COMMISSION. PRESIDENT'S ACTION, WHICH CAME LESS THAN WEEK AFTER HE HAD SAID HIS WIFE WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR OFFICE (REFTEL), WAS PURPORTEDLY RESULT OF OVERWHELMING NATIONWIDE CLAMOR THAT MRS. MARCOS BE DRAFTED.

2. UNDER PROVISIONS OF STILL UNNUMBERED AND UNPUBLISHED PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON INTEGRATION, ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS (INCLUDING MAYORS) WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL END OF YEAR (ALTHOUGH SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING INTO ANY NEW LONG TERM CONTRACTS). WHETHER THEY ARE RETAINED OR NOT PURPORTEDLY DEPENDS ON RESULTS OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT. PRESIDENT IS ALSO ALLOWING TWO MONTH TEST PERIOD TO TEST "EFFECTIVENESS" OF MANAGER SYSTEM. COMMISSION, WHICH WILL HAVE BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS, WILL BE ADVISED BY LOCAL CITIZENS COUNCILS WHICH WILL INCLUDE BARANGAY REPRESENTATIVES.

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3. IN HER ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, MRS. MARCOS SAID SHW WAS ACCEPT-  
ING DFAFT "WITH GREAT HUMILITY, HESITANCY AND AWE." SHE  
OUTLINED MAJOR PROBLEMS CONFRONTING METROPOLITAN MANILA  
(FLOOD CONTROL, TRANSPORT AND SANITATION) AND CALLED FOR THE  
HELP OF ALL THE CITIZENRY IN REBUILDING AND REVITALIZING  
THE CITY.

4. NEW COMMISSION WILL HAVE FOUR OTHER MEMBERS IN ADDITION  
TO MRS. MARCOS, BUT PRESIDENT MUST STILL NAME THEM.

5. ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR TOLD EMBOFF  
EVENING NOV 6. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE GLOOM IN HIS OFFICE  
OVER MRS. MARCOS'S APPOINTMENT. ASKED WHAT PROMPTED  
DESIGNATION, SOURCE SAID IT WAS MRS. MARCOS HERSELF BUT PUSHED  
HARD BY HER BROTHER KOKOY. SOURCE OPINED MRS. MARCOS'S  
APPOONTMENT TO SUCH CRITICAL POSITION TENDED TO CAST DOUBT  
ON SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOP IS PREPARED TO COPE WITH  
DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND WOULD MAKE GOP APPEAR RIDICULOUS  
IN CERTAIN QUARTERS. (COMMENT: IN FACT, APPOINTMENT HAS  
BEEN GREETED IN SOME MANILA CIRCLES WITH INCREDULITY.  
END COMMENT)

6. COMMENT: NEARLY NINE MONTHS AFTER REFERENDUM GAVE HIM  
THE MANDATE, PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS FINALLY FOCUSED ON PROBLEM  
OF INTEGRATING GREATER MANILA. HIS CHOICE OF HIS WIFE AS  
FIRST MANAGER OR GOVERNOR (EXACT TITLE HAS YET TO BE DETER-  
MINED) ENDS A WEEK OF ARTLESSLY CONTRIVED "SUSPENSE" DURING  
WHICH PRESIDENT PONDERED WHETER TO "BOW TO WISHES OF THE  
PEOPLE" AND DRAFT IMELDA. PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO INSTI-  
TUTIONALIZE MRS. MARCOS'S ROLE IN THIS MANNER ADDS NEW DIMEN-  
SION TO HER PRESENT EXPANSIVE ROLE AS FIRST LADY CONSORT.  
AP'S ZEITLIN IS REPORTING HER APPOINTMENT TO HER FIRST POLI-  
TICAL POST WILL GIVE HER EXPOSURE SECOND ONLY TO HER HUSBAND  
AND "INCREASE HER CHANCES OF SUCCEEDING HIM TO THE PRESIDENCY."  
THIS UUDGMNT STRIKES US AS PREMATURE. IN ANY EVENT, MARCOS  
IS CLEARLY UNINTIMIDATED BY PROSPECT IMELDA'S NEW JOB WILL  
TEND TO VALIDATE OPPOSITION VIEW THAT PHILIPPINES IS BECOMING  
"CONJUGAL DICTATORSHIP."

6. AS FAR AS NEW JOB CONCERNED, MRS. MARCOS HAS REPUTATION  
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FOR BEING SINGLE-MINDED, RESULTS-ORIENTED AND WILLING TO  
UTILIZE BEST AVAILABLE TALENT. CULTURAL CENTER, HEART  
CENTER, ETC., ARE MONUMENTS TO HER ABILITY GET THINGS DONE  
ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN CHARACTERIZED NOT INEPTLY AS  
ILLUSTRATIVE OF HER "EDIFACE COMPLEX" WHILE GARBAGE COLLECTION,  
BUS SERVICE, ESTERO CLEANING ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS GLAMOURS  
CHALLENGES, THEY ARE PART OF INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT COMPLEX  
OF PROBLEMS BESETTING ANY VAST (NEW METRO MANILA SAID TO BE

5.5 MILLION) METROPLIS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY, AND THEIR  
MANAGEMENT IF NOT RESOLUTION REQUIRES BROAD-GAUGED MANAGERIAL  
TALENTS. MRS. MARCOS HAS NOT SHOWN THESE TALENTS BUT AS FIRST  
LADY SHE UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDS AND WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO  
DRAW ON MALACANANG'S RESOURCES TO MAKE HER NEWLY LAUNCHED  
CAREER A SUCCESS. WE RESERVE JUDGMENT ON LIKELY OUTCOME.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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